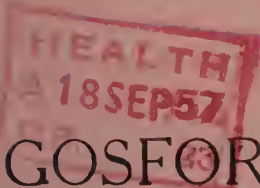


Letting (17)



GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the



year ended 31st December, 1956.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health

Madge Hopper, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

George Stenger, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector

George Oxley, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Clerks -

Mrs. C.E. Raine

Miss W. Oliver.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and Health of the urban district for the year 1956.

The vital statistics generally showed a satisfactory trend, the birth rate was static, the death rate lowered to 11.2 per 1,000 population, a slightly lesser figure than that of 11.7 for England and Wales and much lower than the rate of 15.7 for this district in 1955.

The Infant Mortality Rate was the lowest for six years, being 14.4 per 1,000 live births compared with the national figure of 23.8 and the figure of 28.7 per 1,000 live births in the district for the previous year.

All the deaths of infants with one exception occurred within the first month of life, and no infant death was registered from infective causes.

Infection as a cause of infant death has dropped sharply of latter years and it is a matter for congratulation to all working in the field of infant care, that in 1956 it was entirely eliminated in the urban district.

The incidence of infectious fevers also decreased to a total of 141 notified cases during the year, compared with a total of 382 in the previous year. No outbreak occurred, but we now know that this was a temporary lull as the incidence of Measles rose suddenly at the very end of the year.

Notifications of Sonne Dysentery were not numerous and a threatened outbreak during May in the Coxlodge district was soon cleared up.

Three cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year. Two of these cases had residual paralysis and one fully recovered. There was one notification the previous year.

Both the mortality and general incidence of tuberculosis declined considerably and it is hoped that this will be ever progressive in view of the present facilities of earlier

diagnosis, the newer antibiotic drugs as they come forward with their chance of more rapid healing and fewer 'open' cases with risk of infecting others, the surveillance of contacts, with B.C.G. vaccination for children at risk, combined with the better housing and living standards.

One quarter of the primary notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in the under 20 year age group, a high incidence in the group.

Though slum clearance is not a great problem in the urban district, it is gratifying to note that the commencement already made, continued in 1956; seven houses in Chapel Street and five in South Street being dealt with.

No formal action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act was required during the year in contrast to the unusually high number of three taken the previous year. Four new cases came under the care of the department, three entered a hospital or home voluntarily and in the other case, the services of a home help materially improved the conditions.

May I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the active interest they have continued to take in the work of my department, to the staff of the Health Department, especially to Mr. Stenger for his keen and sustained work throughout the year, and to the Clerk and other officers of the Council for their co-operation and help.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
M. HOPPER,
Medical Officer of Health.

1. VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population of Gosforth is concentrated in a relatively small area, consisting of four wards. The district is mainly residential, the inhabitants working in the adjoining City of Newcastle upon Tyne and on Tyneside generally. The number of industries within the district is extremely small.

In 1956, the Registrar-General's estimated mid year population was 24,810, an increase of 80 on the previous year.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births was 416, including 7 illegitimate births, giving a birth rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) of 17.0 per 1,000 population for the year. In the previous year 418 births, 8 being illegitimate, were registered and the birth rate then was 17.2 per 1,000 population.

There was a swing towards a greater number of male births in 1956, 47 more male than female births being registered whereas, in 1955, the difference was 14.

The birth rate for the country generally was 15.7 per 1,000 population in 1956.

Four still births were registered showing an improvement on the previous year, when there were eight.

The still birth rate was 9.5 per 1,000 population compared with 23.0 for the country.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered during the year decreased by 35 to 256. This decrease was entirely in males.

The number of deaths of residents in the St. Nicholas Hospital was similar in both years, being 110 and 112 respectively.

The death rate for the urban district (corrected for age and sex distribution) was 11.2 per 1,000 population, the national rate being 11.7. The rate for the previous year in the district was 15.2.

NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION.

The number of live births in excess of deaths (other than residents of other districts who died in the St. Nicholas Hospital) was 170, compared with 139 the previous year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of 6 infants under one year of age occurred during the year, compared with 12, in 1955 and 13, in 1954, giving an infant mortality rate of 14.4 per 1,000 live births compared with the rate of 28.7 the previous year.

Thus the rate for 1956 is half that for 1955, a very welcome decline in the rate for the previous few years, though in dealing with such comparatively small figures the rates tend to fluctuate.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales in 1956 was 23.8 per 1,000 live births.

The sharp drop in the number of deaths of infants under one year is wholly between the end of the first month and the first year of life. The neo-natal deaths, i.e., deaths of infants during the first month of life was only very slightly changed.

Five neo-natal deaths, mainly from congenital causes and prematurity occurred in 1956, compared with 6, in 1955, and 8, in 1954.

The neo-natal death rate for the district was 12.0 per 1,000 related births and that for the country was 16.9.

After the first month of life, one death only was registered, compared with 6, the previous year. Infant deaths from infective causes were entirely eliminated in 1956.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No maternal death was registered during the year, compared with one in each of the two preceding years. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 0.56 per 1,000 total live and still births.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

The classification of heart and circulatory diseases, of course, contains the largest number of deaths. In 1956, this group numbered 176, a decrease on the previous year, when 196 deaths were registered in the group. The decline of 31 in the number of deaths registered from these causes in 1956 was entirely among males. In females, there was an increase of 11.

Deaths from 'vascular lesions of the nervous system' dropped to a total of 45 in 1956, from 56, in 1955. There was a slight decrease in the number of deaths registered in this group in both sexes but more especially in females.

Deaths from malignant disease remained at 49 in both years. The number of deaths in this classification was 50 in 1954. There was no significant difference in the number of deaths from particular sites of malignant neoplasm. In both years, 9 deaths from 'malignant neoplasm of the lung and bronchus' were registered.

Deaths classified as due to 'respiratory diseases' increased slightly to a total of 31 in 1956 from 27, in the previous year. Deaths from Bronchitis remained static at 16 in each year, but deaths from Pneumonia increased by 7.

Deaths from 'ulcer of the Stomach and duodenum' dropped from 3 deaths registered from this cause in 1955 to one, in 1956.

No death from an acute infectious fever and one death from 'other infective and parasitic causes' was registered during the year. There was none in either classification the previous year.

It is very pleasing to report that the number of deaths from accidents other than 'motor vehicle' dropped very considerably in 1956 to 2 during the year, compared with 10, the previous year. In 1954, 12 deaths were registered under this heading.

Both of the deaths in 1956 were due to fatal home accidents, falls downstairs of elderly people.

While the number of fatal home accidents showed a great improvement, the number of deaths due to motor vehicle accidents, unfortunately, increased to 5 in 1956, from one in 1955 and two, in 1954.

In two cases, the accident occurred by being knocked down by a motor vehicle, in another two cases, death was due to injuries sustained in a car accident and in one case by a fall from a bus.

Deaths from suicide showed a welcome decrease to two in 1956, from 5, in 1955 and 4, in 1954. The two deaths in 1956 were due to coal gas poisoning.

II. TUBERCULOSIS.

In 1956, the death rate for Tuberculosis (all forms) in the urban district was 0.04 per 1,000 population compared with 0.20 in the previous year. The mortality rate (all forms) for the country in 1956 was 0.12.

There was one death (male) from pulmonary tuberculosis and one from the non-pulmonary form of the disease, compared with 4 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis and one from the non-pulmonary form of the disease in 1955.

The mortality rate has been decreasing steadily of recent years with a slight upward trend last year, i.e., in 1954, 0.16 and in 1955, 0.24 per 1,000 population, to reach the new low level of 0.04 in 1956.

The total number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year was 20 (11 male, 9 female) compared with a total of 24 (13 male and 11 female) notified in the previous year and 25, in 1954.

This slight decline in incidence is encouraging but it is noted that 3 notifications of the disease in children (1-15 years) occurred. There were 5 primary notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis in the under 20 age group, whereas in 1956, there was one and in 1954, three cases notified in this particular group.

Notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis also dropped in 1956 to a total of 4, compared with 8, in 1955, 4, in 1954 and 12, in 1953.

The number of already notified cases 'inwardly transferred' to this district decreased to 9 during the year. In the previous two years there had been a total of 32, 15 in 1955 and 17, in 1954.

Patients from the district are under the care of the Senior Chest Physician at the New Bridge Street Chest Clinic, Newcastle upon Tyne, and are admitted to Walkergate Hospital and to the various sanatoria of the region as required. Admission to a sanatorium usually occurs within a very short time of diagnosis.

Family contacts are kept under surveillance, especially children at risk and B.C.G. vaccination is given to children as necessary both at clinic and school, with the parents consent.

The general public can attend the Mass Radiography Unit stationed at the General Hospital, Newcastle. The Unit is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board. No public sessions were held in Gosforth during the year as it appears that concentration on industrial and selected groups is more productive of case finding.

III. GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 141 compared with a total of 382 in 1955 and 280, in 1954.

Measles. Notifications of Measles were extremely small, seven only occurring between January and November that year. However, in December, 1956, 19 cases were notified and this was the beginning of an outbreak which occurred in the early months of 1957. For the year 1956, 26 cases only were notified.

Whooping Cough. The incidence of Whooping Cough in the district has been progressively declining during the last few years. It is probably of significance that this has been concomitant with a considerable increase in the number of whooping cough vaccinations over the same period of time.

Notifications of the disease during the last three years were 37 cases in 1956, 53, in 1955 and 130, in 1954.

Scarlet Fever. On the other hand, a slight rise in the incidence of Scarlet Fever has been noticeable during the last three years. Thirteen cases were notified in 1954, 17 in 1955, and 19, in 1956. The disease generally has been of a very mild type.

Dysentery. There was a slight decrease in the number of notifications of Some dysentery during the year, 20 cases being notified compared with 43 in the previous year. Sixteen of these cases occurred in May in children who were school-mates at a school in the district. There were only a few secondary cases and from the beginning of August to the end of the year, no notification was received.

Spread to the district can easily occur as the general prevalence of this disease has increased very considerably throughout the country of latter years.

Investigation of cases and the follow up of positive contacts, whether they be convalescent excretors or symptomless temporary carriers, seems to be the best way of curbing spread of the disease.

This follow up drives home the necessity of scrupulous personal hygiene as well as helping to ensure clearance of the stools as soon as possible.

Considerable time and attention to detail is involved, but is well worth the effort.

The difficulty in this disease, is its apparent great infectivity, and the fact that symptoms can be so mild, especially in initial cases, that advice is not sought before spread to other cases has occurred.

The co-operation of the school medical staff and the head teachers as well as the general practitioners has been invaluable.

In January and February, 15 cases of Flexner dysentery were notified at the St. Nicholas Hospital. They occurred in one ward where elderly females were being nursed. No further case occurred after the end of February.

A similar small outbreak of 14 cases of Flexner dysentery in one ward occurred in the early months of the previous year.

Food Poisoning. Four cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. In two cases, that of a mother and boy of 2 years, *Salmonella Thomson* was found to be the causative organism. The boy had a fairly severe illness but the mother was almost symptomless, indeed, she may have been a carrier. It was impossible to trace the source of the infection and both patients made a good recovery.

In September, a further case of food poisoning occurred, the causative organism being found to be *Salmonella Muenchen*.

The patient, a child of just over a year, had symptoms of moderate severity. The father of the child, a bread van salesman in another district, was by co-operation of the proprietor, kept off the actual handling of food for a short period until consecutive negative stool specimens had been obtained.

In the fourth case, which unfortunately was a fatal one, no causative organism was found. Symptoms were rapid and severe, the patient dying in the Walkergate Hospital within 24 hours of the onset of acute enteritis. The patient had had previous intestinal disease. No article of food appeared suspect and no further case occurred.

Acute Poliomyelitis. During the year, three cases of poliomyelitis occurred in the district, two being notified here and one while away on holiday. The latter, a boy of 14 years became ill in August, four days after leaving his home in this district. Round about the conjectured date of infection, he was resident in Scotland. The attack was of moderate severity with some paralysis of the left arm. He was transferred to the Walkergate Hospital.

The second case was notified in November, a small boy of three years. The attack was a mild one with full recovery.

In December, a further case was notified, a little girl of 16 months. There was considerable paralysis of one leg and the attack was of moderate severity.

The father of the child, a food handler, was excluded from work for a short period.

Meningococcal Meningitis. One case of meningococcal meningitis was notified in 1956. The patient a boy of 16 years, was admitted to Walkergate Hospital for treatment and made a good recovery.

Influenza. In accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health the general practitioners of the district co-operated particularly during the winter in keeping watch for the first signs of any outbreak of influenza as distinct from the common cold and its complications. No outbreak at all occurred.

IV. HOUSING.

At the end of 1956, the number of applicants for Council houses stood at 892.

During 1956, the number of houses erected by the Council was 50, this brings the total number of houses erected since 1944 to 1444.

Four cases of tuberculosis residing in Council houses were transferred to other Council houses which afforded more suitable accommodation.

A more detailed statement on Housing is given in the Housing Section of the Report.

V. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. Four new cases were investigated under this particular section of the National Assistance Act. These cases together with cases already known to the Department involved twenty-four visits by the staff.

Of the four new cases investigated, three were referred to the County Welfare Department. In the remaining case, an attempt was made to meet the problem by the provision of a Home Help. It was not found necessary to take any formal action during the year.

Section 50. Burial or Cremation of the Dead. It was not found necessary to take any action under this Section of the Act.

VI. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

During the year 91 samples of milk were procured and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory. Fourteen samples were submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli, all of which were found to be negative.

The results of ice-cream sampling during the year, showed a considerable improvement on those of the previous year. Details of the sampling are contained in the Senior Public Health Inspector's report.

VII. FOOD HYGIENE AND HEALTH EDUCATION.

Throughout the year your Public Health Inspectors made regular visits to the various food premises in the district, which number 159. A list of the various types of business is presented in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector. The standard of hygiene in food premises throughout the district is very satisfactory, nevertheless no effort was spared to make all food traders even more 'hygiene conscious'.

Lectures on food hygiene and food poisoning were given by the staff of the department to several groups of people including senior boys and girls in schools in the district.

VIII. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

No fresh complaints were received of smoke nuisances arising from business premises but a small number of complaints were received from householders alleging nuisances arising from the burning of garden refuse, etc.

It is gratifying to state that a new boiler with a mechanical stoker has been installed at the St. Nicholas Hospital. I understand that it is intended to instal another new boiler next year. When the installation is complete, I venture to say that apart from offending chimneys of domestic dwellings, a great deal will have been achieved in the way of providing cleaner air in the district.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year the department was called upon to deal with 340 complaints, which were of a widely varied nature. These complaints together with the details of sanitary circumstances of the district are referred to in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(a) Regional Hospital Board. There are two hospitals in the Urban District, the St. Nicholas Hospital for the treatment of mental diseases and the Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital.

(b) Tuberculosis Service. Cases from the Urban District attend the Chest Clinic, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, under the Senior Chest Physician.

Institutional treatment is provided in one of the Sanatoria or Walkergate Hospital, or in the case of children at the Childrens' Sanatorium at Stannington.

(c) Local Authorities Services. Services (3) (4) (5) (6) and (7) and the care of the buildings in Section (2) are administered by the South Arca Health Sub-Committee.

(1) Home Nursing and Midwifery.

There are three general nurses and two midwives resident in the district.

(2) Maternity and Child Welfare Service.

Regular sessions are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Church Road, Gosforth, for babies, children and expectant mothers, for dental treatment and the treatment of eye defects and skin diseases, and for ultra violet ray therapy.

The recent extensions to the building are fully used and have proved of great benefit.

(3) Ambulance Service.

This service has a station at Wideopen which covers the Urban Districts of Gosforth and Longbenton (with the exception of West Allotment), and the adjacent parts of Castle Ward and works in conjunction with Throckley and other stations.

The establishment consists of 14 driver attendants (including two stretcher bearers) and four radio control assistants under the driver-supervisor.

There are five ambulances and one sitting car, all radio-controlled.

On April 21st, 1956, the control system by radio was extended, so that Wideopen depot receives all calls from 4.0 p.m., to 8.0 a.m., on weekdays and from noon on Saturdays to 8.0 a.m., on Mondays from the areas covered by the Ashington, Bedlington Blyth, Seaton Delaval, Throckley, Prudhoe, Wallsend and Whitley Bay depots; in fact, from the whole of the southern part of the County - and relays them to their respective stations.

1956, saw the introduction of Diesel ambulances to the service and two were put into use at Wideopen.

During the year, ambulances of the Wideopen Station made 5,774 journeys, carried 21,830 patients including 740 accident and emergency cases, 3,164 stretcher cases and did a total mileage of 163,843 miles.

(4) Immunisation and Vaccination.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, by the general practitioners of the district and at the schools.

In the succeeding paragraph the figures in brackets indicate those for the previous year, and are given for comparison.

At 31st December, 1956, 93% (91%) of the total child population of the urban district had been immunised against diphtheria at some time during their lives; 83% (79%) of the children (0-4 years) and 98% of the children (5-14 years) in both 1955 and 1956.

The Immunity Index which shows the number of children in each age group immunised during the last five years was introduced by the Ministry of Health in 1953 and now serves as a very useful indication of the more complete immunisation in a district.

At the end of 1956, the Index of Gosforth was as follows :-

Children under one year	33% (23%)
" 1-4 years	97% (95%)
" 5-14 years	75% (73%)

The total Immunity Index for all children under 15 years of age was 78% (75%).

This slight but overall increase during the year, especially noticeable in the under one year age group is encouraging.

The aim of the campaign is still to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday and to keep the immunisation at an adequate level throughout school life.

Altogether, 435 primary immunisations with a single antigen were completed during the year, 351 being of children under one year. Refresher doses numbering 558 were also given.

In addition, 379 primary courses with combined diphtheria and whooping cough prophylactic were given, and 20 primary courses with the triple antigen.

Whooping Cough Prophylaxis. A total of 481 children (328 being children under one year, 134, children (1-4 years) 9, (5-14 years) received prophylaxis against Whooping Cough compared with a total of 295 children in 1955.

Combined diphtheria and pertussis prophylactic was used in the majority of the children. The use of combined vaccine has increased considerably during the last few years.

Tetanus. The triple antigen of Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Tetanus was used for 20 children.

Vaccination against Smallpox. Primary vaccinations against Smallpox numbered 219 in 1956, as in the previous year. There were only 159 primary vaccinations in 1954.

Sixty-five re-vaccinations were done during the year compared with 58, in 1955.

These figures show a slight improvement during the last two years but are still extremely small and leave a considerable proportion of the population at risk should a case of smallpox arise, which in these days of rapid travel is an ever present danger.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis. A limited amount of vaccine being available, a small number of registered children in selected age groups received two injections of Poliovirin. This limited scheme was done on a central basis.

As supplies of the vaccine become more plentiful, vaccination of registered children will proceed on an area basis.

(5) Home Help Service.

During the year, a total of 210 (218) persons resident in the urban district received the service of a home help for varying periods.

The cases included 27 (44) confinements, 49 (49) of acute illness, 123 (109) aged and infirm people, 6 (7) blind persons and 5 (6) cases of tuberculosis.

The figures in brackets indicate the number of cases served the previous year. The number of old people served by home helps shows a steady increase year by year. This service is invaluable for the old people and not only helps them during their last years, but gives them a degree of comfort, aid and security that otherwise in many cases, would be sadly lacking. In numerous instances, the elderly person is able to live at home among familiar surroundings until the end, or very near it.

(6) Care and After-care.

The Gosforth and Castle Ward After-care Sub Committee held regular two-monthly meetings throughout the year.

As previously, efforts were made to give aid to patients suffering from tuberculosis with milk, travelling expenses to relatives to hospital, etc.

The now much improved prognosis has resulted in fewer patients requiring this aid but has increased the importance of giving help towards rehabilitation.

At the end of the year, the Sub Committee decided to extend their activities to include very necessitous cases of chest and cardiac diseases, other than tuberculosis, according to the lead given by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

(7) Nursing Care.

The Nursing Care Committee of Gosforth deals with the loan of nursing equipment on a fairly considerable scale, to residents of the district. The work proceeded steadily during the year,

facilitated by the use of the excellent store building provided by the Committee in 1955.

A total of 209 persons had the loan of nursing requisites and invalid furniture, comprising 328 separate articles. In addition, wheel chairs were loaned to 43 persons.

The work of the Old People's Welfare Committee, established in 1955, continued to grow and ~~ex~~expand and gave valuable help in the various problems of the aged.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.Particulars of District.

Area (in acres)	1739
Registrar General's estimated population	24,810
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at 31st March, 1956 ,	7,865
Sum represented by Penny rate	£1,006.8.0
Rateable value at 31st March, 1956	£247,385.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live births (legitimate)	228	181	409
Live births (illegitimate)	3	4	7
Still births	2	2	4
Deaths	165	191	356
Birth rate per 1,000 population			17.0
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births			9.5
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			11.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There were no maternal deaths.

Death rate of infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	14.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	14.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	-

Deaths.

Deaths from Malignant Diseases (all ages)	49
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Deaths from Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea (all ages)	2

CAUSES OF DEATH.(taken from the Registrar General's Return).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
All causes	165 (48)	191 (62)
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	1 (1)	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4 (2)	5 (1)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7 (1)	2 (1)
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3 (2)
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8 (2)	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3 (1)	1
Diabetes	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	29 (6)
Coronary disease, angina	27 (3)	13 (4)
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
Other heart disease	53 (30)	63 (37)
Other circulatory disease	5	12
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	3 (3)	13 (8)
Bronchitis	8 (4)	3 (3)
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1 (1)	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	4	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	15
Motor vehicle accidents	2	3
All other accidents	2	-
Suicide	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-

(Figures in brackets indicate deaths in St. Nicholas Hospital)

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS
(1937-1956) compared with rates for England and Wales.

Year	General Death Rate		Infant Mortality Rate.		Birth Rate.	
	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales
1937	11.4	12.4	42.9	58	12.9	15.5
1938	11.0	11.6	32.4	53	13.6	15.7
1939	9.78	12.1	18.0	50	13.4	15.5
1940	11.2	14.3	64.4	55	13.5	15.1
1941	10.0	11.6	50.2	53	11.2	15.7
1942	9.47	11.6	13.6	49	14.4	16.3
1943	10.7	12.1	24.1	49	16.4	17.0
1944	10.7	11.6	29.6	46	18.2	18.1
1945	13.1	11.4	36.2	46	16.0	16.5
1946	10.6	11.5	22.8	43	17.6	19.6
1947	9.1	12.0	23.6	41	18.7	21.0
1948	9.9	10.8	24.7	34	16.7	18.3
1949	9.9	11.7	28.8	32	15.7	16.7
1950	13.1	11.6	11.4	29.8	14.5	15.8
1951	11.1	12.5	25.2	29.6	14.5	15.5
1952	9.2	11.3	24.9	27.6	14.6	15.3
1953	14.1	11.4	16.1	26.8	14.1	15.5
1954	13.5	11.3	35.1	25.5	15.3	15.2
1955	15.7	11.7	28.7	24.9	17.2	15.3
1956	11.2	11.7	14.4	23.8	17.0	15.7

INFANT MORTALITY.

Anoxaemia, Post maturity	15 mins
Prematurity, Achondroplasia	1 hour
Congenital heart disease	4 days
Agenesis of left lung	8 months
Intra cerebral haemorrhage, breech delivery	1 hour
Prematurity	22 hours

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The table on page 21 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Cases requiring hospital treatment and isolation are removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walkergate. This hospital is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Appended is a summary of Bacteriological reports received from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, on specimens submitted by local medical practitioners and by the Health Department.

	<u>Positive.</u>	<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Throat swabs for Vincent's Angina	1	7	8
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	-	10	10
Throat swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	10	8	18
Specimens of faeces for pathogenic organisms	89	149	238
Specimens of urine for organisms	2	1	3
Vaginal swab	1	-	1
specimens of sputum for Tuberculosis	4	3	7
Specimen of C.S. Fluid for Meningitis	1	-	1
Swab for H. Pertussis	2	1	3
Specimen of blood for Typhoid fever	-	1	1
	110	180	290

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table of Cases notified in the Urban District during 1956, set out in age groups.

	All ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & over
Scarlet fever	19	-	-	-	-	-	10	8	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	37	-	6	5	3	11	12	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	26	-	3	5	2	4	12	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric-typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	35	-	-	-	1	-	12	1	1	6	6	8
Pneumonia	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	5	2
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Erysipelae	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	141	1	10	11	7	15	47	9	5	8	16	12

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1956.

Outbreaks due to identified agents :-

Total outbreaks ...	Nil	Total cases ...	Nil
---------------------	-----	-----------------	-----

Outbreaks due to :-

(a) Chemical poisons	Nil
(b) Salmonella	Nil
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	Nil
(d) Cl. botulinum	Nil
(e) Other bacteria	Nil

Outbreaks of undiscovered cause :-

Total outbreaks ...	Nil	Total cases ...	Nil
---------------------	-----	-----------------	-----

Single Cases - Agent identified :-

(a) Salmonella Thomson	Two
(b) Salmonella Muenchen	One

<u>Single Cases</u> - Unknown cause	One
-------------------------------------	-----

TABLE OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>No. of cases of Diphtheria</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>
1936	39	-
1937	25	-
1938	27	2
1939	23	1
1940	8	1
1941	9	-
1942	10	1
1943	5	1
1944	12	1
1945	15	-
1946	5	-
1947	3	-
1948	3	-
1949	-	-
1950	1	1
1951	-	-
1952	1	-
1953	-	-
1954	-	-
1955	-	-
1956	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory Male	Female	Non-respiratory Male	Female	Respiratory Male	Female	Non-respiratory Male	Female
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10 years	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
10-15 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20 years	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25 years	-	-(1 I.T)	1	1	-	-	-	-
25-35 years	3+(4 I.T)	2+(3 I.T)	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45 years	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 years	2+(1 I.T)	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	11 + (5 I.T)	9 + (4 I.T)	2	2	1	-	-	-

I.T. Inward Transfers.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

New cases on the Register (including inward transfers)				Deaths.				No. on register at end of year							
	Pulmonary.			Non-pulmonary			M.	Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary				
	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.		M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.		
1942	12	8	20	3	2	5	2	3	5	1	1	2	14	14	28
1943	10	6	16	1	-	9	9	5	14	-	1	1	14	21	35
1944	17	18	35	-	3	9	5	3	8	1	1	2	9	17	26
1945	17	0	27	3	6	9	5	3	10	-	1	1	10	22	32
1946	14	8	22	2	4	6	3	4	9	1	1	2	10	24	35
1947	11	7	18	1	4	5	5	5	10	1	1	2	10	24	34
1948	12	13	25	5	4	9	8	8	16	1	1	1	5	14	19
1949	22	17	39	2	1	3	4	3	7	7	-	7	6	14	20
1950	16	11	27	2	3	5	9	3	12	2	1	3	7	17	24
1951	22	9	31	2	2	4	4	3	5	1	1	2	9	14	23
1952	17	17	34	1	6	7	2	1	3	3	-	3	10	17	27
1953	11	17	28	7	7	14	9	1	10	-	-	-	13	23	36
1954	27	15	42	2	2	4	1	3	3	1	-	1	13	23	36
1955	19	20	39	4	5	9	2	1	4	-	-	-	14	23	37
1956	16	13	29	2	2	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	16	21	37

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1956.

Quarter ended	No. of cases on register at commencement of quarter		No. of cases notified for the first time.		No. of cases removed from register.		No. of cases remaining.	
	Pul.	Non-pul.	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul
31st March, 1956	Males 113 Females 85	14 23	2 2	2 1	1 -	1 1	114 87	15 23
30th June, "	Males 114 Females 87	15 23	5 3	- -	4 1	- 1	115 89	15 22
30th Sept. "	Males 115 Females 89	15 22	7 2	- -	2 2	- -	120 89	15 22
31st Dec. "	Males 120 Females 89	15 22	3 5	1 -	2 2	- 1	121 92	16 21

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

On August 2nd, 1956, the Royal Assent was given to the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956, and sanitary inspectors employed by local authorities in England and Wales automatically became public health inspectors.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district has a piped water supply provided by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. I am again indebted to the Engineer of the Company for supplying the following information relating to the bacteriological and chemical analyses of samples of water taken throughout the Company's area during the year under review.

Bacteriological Analysis.

The number of samples analysed bacteriologically at the Company's laboratories totalled 1213, and of this number 97% were classified "excellent" (free of B. Coli, Type 1, per 100 n.l.) and 3% classed as "satisfactory".

Bacteriological examinations were also carried out by several Corporations within the Company's area, and out of a total of 395 samples analysed, 393 were classified as satisfactory or excellent. The remaining two samples proved quite satisfactory on check samples being obtained.

A firm of Consulting Chemists made their customary bi-monthly chemical analyses, with satisfactory results in all cases.

The foregoing information shows that the high standard of purity of the water supplied to consumers is being maintained.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse Collection.

General - I am pleased to record once again that apart from specific periods, i.e. public holidays or when really adverse weather prevailed, a weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the district. Nevertheless even in periods following public holidays etc., the "arrears" never amounted to more than three days. Unfortunately, although I suppose that it is inevitable, complaints were received from a relatively small number of irate residents, who appear to be inclined to the view that whatever the circumstances collections should be punctual.

House Refuse.

There was no great change in the quantity of refuse removed from dwelling-houses, the only significant change being in the character of the refuse. During the summer months there is a tendency for the refuse to become lighter with apparent advantages, but unfortunately, these advantages are greatly outweighed by the increased bulk of the refuse, due to the inclusion of large quantities of garden refuse.

Despite our excellent salvage figures, I would still like to appeal to householders to refrain from depositing clean waste paper including cardboard, in the dustbin. Such salvable material should be placed at the side of the bin for collection by the collectors. The advantages to be gained from this action would be threefold (a) increased revenue from the sale of waste paper (b) additional space provided in the dustbin for the reception of house refuse (c) simplification of the task of the disposal of refuse.

Trade Refuse.

The quantity of trade refuse removed from the various business premises in the district is still considerable. A reduction in the quantity could be achieved if only traders would take the simple precaution of segregating salvable materials from the refuse. If this simple measure were undertaken, not only would the ratepayers in general benefit, but it would greatly minimise the task of the disposal of refuse. Several food premises continue to receive a bi-weekly collection of refuse.

Refuse Disposal.

The Benton Tip, situated in the Urban District of Longbenton continued to be the main point for the disposal of refuse, where approximately 10300 tons of refuse from this district were disposed of. The expenditure incurred in the controlled tipping operation is borne equally by the Longbenton Urban District Council and by this Authority.

I would like to record my sincere appreciation of the neighbourly action of the Longbenton Council in continuing to grant to this Council, facilities for the disposal of refuse.

Salvage Disposal.

The amount of waste paper forwarded to the Board Mills during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1957 was 370 tons, which represents 1.24 tons per 1000 of population per month. The figure of 370 tons shows a decrease of 29 tons on the previous year, but in no manner can it be regarded as a reflection on the endeavours of anyone. Indeed it can only be attributed to the introduction by the Board Mills for a period of six months of a "Limitation of Deliveries. This had the effect of reducing our monthly average output of approximately 34 tons to 29 tons. The position was eased somewhat when the Board Mills increased our monthly quota to 30 tons. It was stipulated by the Board Mills, however, that of this amount, 3 tons had to consist of fibreboard. This is another sound reason, if one be required, why business premises and dwelling-houses alike should segregate salvage from rubbish. The bulk of our supplies of fibreboard is provided by occupiers of business premises.

Transport.

The four Shelvoke & Drewry wagons purchased in 1952 continue to give satisfactory service. One unfortunate aspect of purchasing four new vehicles all at the same time, is the fact they "grow old together" and thereby to some extent at least, maintenance costs are quadrupled. The side-loader Dennis which was salvaged from the fire in 1952, and placed in commission in June, 1953 has proved to be of inestimable value. Although it only has a capacity of 10 cubic yards which tends to slow down the rate of collecting, its use, either as a relief wagon or when engaged on special collection work has been most beneficial.

Costing Returns. (1955/56).

I find myself in complete agreement with the comment made in the introduction to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Public Cleansing Costing Return which states that to base conclusions of practical value upon the figures shown in the tables, regard must be had to the extent to which refuse was actually weighed. There is a suggestion in the figures to over-estimate tonnages where weighing is not carried out.

Authorities which weighed 80% or more of their refuse showed an average net cost per ton, collection and disposal of 48/5d. (1954/55 - 44/-) while the corresponding figure relating to Authorities weighing less than 80% was 31/9d. (1954/55 - 30/3d.).

When based on the cost per 1000 of population or per 1000 premises our figures which are set out below compare favourably with neighbouring authorities. For the sake of comparison, I have covered a three year period.

The increasing costs relating to labour and materials is reflected in the figures shown in the following table.

	<u>1953/54</u>	<u>1954/55</u>	<u>1955/56</u>
	£	£	£
Net Cost per 1000 population	420	467	500
Net Cost per 1000 Premises	1277	1379	1498

Staff

It would be remiss of me to conclude this section of my report without making reference to the splendid efforts of Mr. Oliver and the outside staff. The men have carried out their duties efficiently and I am indeed indebted to them. I would also like to refer to the retirement of Mr. 'Bob' Purvis which took place at the end of the year after 25 years service to this Council. Mr. Purvis was a grand worker and I have pleasure in taking this opportunity of hoping that he will have good health so that he might be able to enjoy his retirement.

COST STATEMENT 1956 - 57

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
	1	2	3	4	5
		£	£	£	%
1	<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u> (note (a))				
	GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
	(i) Labour (note (b))	8126	1436	9562	58
	(ii) Transport (note (c))	4468	1223	5691	34
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings (note (d))	84	19	103	1
	(iv) Other items (note (e))	166	975	1141	7
	(v) Total gross expenditure	12844	3653	16497	100
2	GROSS INCOME (note (f))	62	2812	2874	-
3	NET COST	12782	841	13623	-
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)	-	-	-	-
	<u>UNIT COSTS</u> (note (g))				
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	15 2	2 9	17 11	
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	8 4	2 4	10 8	
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	23 11	1 6	25 5	
		£	£	£	
8	Net cost per 1000 population	511	34	545	
9	Net cost per 1000 premises	1598	105	1703	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

10.	Area (statute acres) - land and inland water	1739	acres
11.	Population at 30th June, 1956 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	24810	persons
12.	Total refuse collected (tons) (Test weighings)	10702	tons
13.	Weight (cwts) per 1000 population per day (365 days to year)	23.4	cwts.
14.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	8325	premises
15.	Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	100%	of total
16.	Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point ...	4	miles
17.	Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection	Nil	%
18.	Total refuse disposed of.....	10702	tons
19.	Methods of disposal (Salvage excluded):		
	(a) Crude tipping	-	%
	(b) Controlled tipping	100	%
	(c) Direct incineration	-	%
	(d) Separation and incineration	-	%
	(e) Other methods (state nature)	-	%
		100	%

20. Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage:

	Income (Included in Item 2)	Tonnage Collected (Included in Item 12)
	£	Tons
(a) Raw Kitchen Waste (note (a))	-	-
(b) Scrap Metal	13	3
(c) Waste Paper	2799	370
(d) Other Salvage	-	-
(e) Totals	2812	373

21. Trade Refuse:

(a) Income	Nil	£
(b) Tonnage	-	tons

NOTES.

- (a) Comprising the expenditure directly attributable to the service, including sums paid to other local authorities. Excluding all expenditure and income arising from the operation of kitchen waste processing plant but including expenditure on normal collection of raw kitchen waste and (against Items 2 and 20 (a)) an appropriate amount of income corresponding to its sale.
- (b) "Labour" means all employees other than clerical staff, drivers and mechanics. Expenditure includes holiday and sick pay, bonus payments, all superannuation charges, employer's contributions to national insurance and the cost of protective clothing and uniforms.
- (c) Transport means all types of vehicles and expenditure includes running and maintenance costs, wages of drivers and mechanics and other revenue expenses (including loan charges).
- (d) Including running costs, maintenance expenses, loan charges and all sums charged to revenue account in respect of the provision or renewal of buildings, plant, dustbins, etc. Costs of war damage repairs should be excluded.
- (e) Including salaries and wages not already mentioned, payments to other local authorities for collection and/or disposal of refuse and payments to contractors. Excluding all administration and office expenses. No part of the Chief Officer's salary should be included.
- (f) To ensure statistical uniformity all salvage income (except raw kitchen waste) should be credited to Disposal. Trade refuse collection income should be credited two-thirds to Collection and one-third to Disposal. Income from raw kitchen waste should be credited to the account which bears the cost of its collection.
- (g) Gross unit costs of collection and disposal should be based on the tonnages shown at Items 12 and 18 respectively but the net cost of disposal should be based on the tonnage of the council's own refuse, i.e. excluding refuse received from other local authorities.

HOUSING.

During the latter part of the year, the rehousing took place of all persons residing within the area covered by the Gosforth (South Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1955. The total number of persons rehoused was nineteen. The twelve houses covered by the Order, plus forty-five houses purchased by agreement from the National Coal Board are all within the five year slum clearance programme.

A total of eighty-three new houses were erected during the year, fifty by this Council, and thirty-three by private persons.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.Section 26 (1) (Application for Certificates of Disrepair).

During the year nineteen applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and dealt with. One application was subsequently withdrawn, the remaining eighteen applications were all granted.

Section 26 (4) (Application for Revocation of Certificate of Disrepair).

Seven applications for the revocation of Certificates of Disrepair were received, and all were granted.

Action with regard to unfit houses.

<u>Closing and Demolition.</u>	<u>No. of Houses.</u>
(a) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
(b) Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	6
(c) Houses closed, not demolished	Nil

Repairs.

(Houses made fit by procedure under Housing or Public Health Acts).

(a) By informal action	114
(b) By owners -	
(i) Public Health Act	19
(ii) Housing Act	1
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners.	1

RODENT INFESTATION.

The amount of work carried out in connection with the infestation of premises, both dwelling-houses and business premises, by rats and mice, was only slightly less than that carried out in the previous year.

Throughout the year, over six hundred visits were made involving one hundred and twenty-one dwelling houses and fourteen business premises. Primary investigations revealed that one hundred and three premises were found to be infested with rats and forty-seven premises found to be infested with mice. The infestations were found to be evenly spread throughout the district and it is again gratifying to state that no major infestations were encountered.

During the year two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out, the results of which are described below.

The rodenticides Warfarin, with a bait-base of oatmeal, and Zinc-phosphide, with a bait-base of sausage rusk were again used. The former rodenticide was used in connection with surface infestations and the latter in connection with the treatment of sewers.

Sewer Treatments.

Treatment No.	No. of Man-holes Treated.	Poison Takes	
		Partial	Complete
1	133	14	-
2	134	11	-

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

During the year forty complaints were received in this connection. The majority of the complaints were concerned with garden insects, the most troublesome being earwigs, and red spiders. No bed-bug infestations were encountered, although a number of premises were inspected for the presence of these harmful insects. Two premises only were treated in connection with flea infestation and nine premises in connection with cockroaches.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Public Health Act, 1936.
(Section 269).

There is only one licensed site in the district on which is situated a trailer caravan. The caravan is used for human habitation and is occupied by one person only.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

On the 1st April, in accordance with a resolution of the Council, I was appointed Inspector under the Shops Act. Hitherto, the duties of your Public Health Inspectors under the Shops Act had been confined to the enforcement of the provisions of the Act, relating to temperature, ventilation and sanitary conveniences.

The enforcement of all the provisions of the Act as opposed to the duties carried out heretofore, entail a fair amount of work outside the normal working hours. The provisions of the Act accounting for the additional duties are the provisions relating to General Closing Hours and Sunday Trading.

There are two hundred and thirty shops in the district and the only order in force in the district is the "Gosforth Weekly Half-day Holiday Exemption Order", made in 1914, and relates to Stationers' shops. The majority of shops in the district close at 1.0 p.m. on Wednesdays and that is the assistant's half-day holiday.

During the year, four warnings were issued to traders in connection with infringements of the provisions of the Act relating to Sunday Trading and one warning in connection with the provisions relating to the General Closing Hours.

The Shops Act is widely acclaimed as a complex piece of legislation and it is seriously hoped that the Shops Bill now before Parliament will attempt to remove some of the ambiguities contained therein.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

There are ninety-two registered factories in the district, seventy-two mechanical factories and twenty non-mechanical factories, and five other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Authority.

Number of visits and notices served are shown as follows:-

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Notices Served
Mechanical	72	98	7
Non-Mechanical	20	67	4
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority....	5	20	-
Total	97	185	11

The type of defect dealt with is shown as follows:-

Particulars	Defects found	Defects remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	5	3	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-			
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	2	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	-
Total	12	6	2

INSPECTION OF FOOD & FOOD PREMISES.

Milk Supply.

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk 4

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk 14

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Pasteurised" milk 10

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk 6

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" (Pasteurised) milk 11

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Pasteurised" milk 12

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Sterilised" milk	24
Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Sterilised" milk	3

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of persons registered as Distributors of milk ...	31
Number of premises registered as Dairies	2

Samples of Milk.

During the year eighty-seven samples of milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue keeping quality test and of this number, seventy-eight samples or 89.6% satisfied the Test. The corresponding percentage figure for the previous year was 85.2%. Nine samples of Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) milk out of a total of thirty-one submitted for examination failed to satisfy the Test. The number of producers associated with these unsatisfactory samples was five. The milk from one producer failed on no less than three occasions to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test. In repeated cases of milk failing to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test, a notification is forwarded to the County Milk Production Officer.

During the year fourteen samples of Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) milk were submitted for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli, and all were found to be negative.

Samples of Ice-Cream.

During the year forty samples of ice-cream were produced and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test.

The results of the examination of these samples, together with their respective grading are shown as follows:-

Type of Samples		Time taken to Reduce Methylene Blue.	Provisional Grade.	% of Total.
Prewrapped	Loose.			
26	3	4½ Hours or more	1	72.5
4	1	2½ Hours - 4 hours	2	12.5
1	2	½ Hour - 2 hours	3	7.5
Nil	3	0 Hours	4	7.5

These results are a considerable improvement upon the results of the previous year, when 30% of the samples procured fell into Grade 4, and 50% of those Grade 4 samples were prewrapped.

Nevertheless it is a matter for regret that any sample should fall into Grade 4. It is a matter for further regret that two of the samples falling into Grade 4 were procured from the same producer.

All ice-cream retailed within the District is manufactured outside the district and close contact is maintained at all times with those authorities within whose district, the ice-cream is manufactured.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955 (Section 62)
(Licensing of Slaughter Houses)

There is only one slaughter-house in the district and it is privately owned and occupied by Messrs. T.N. Arkle & Son (Meat Purveyors) of 160 High Street, Gosforth. The slaughter-house is situated at the rear of 160 High Street, and the licence appertaining thereto, is due to expire on the thirty-first day of January, 1957.

The number of animals slaughtered, together with the results of the inspection of the carcasses and organs, are shown in the table on page 41.

Food Premises.

The number and type of the various food premises in the district is shown as follows:-

Type of Premises.	No.	Type of Premises	No.
Grocers	29	Premises with "Off-licence"	9
General Dealers	27	Retail Bakers	7
Meat Purveyors	22	Fishmongers & Poulterers	5
Fruiterers	18	Bakehouses	4
Licensed Premises	15	Fried Fish and Chips	5
Confectioners	15	Cafes	3

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excl. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	258	Nil	12	792	Nil	Nil
Number inspected	258	Nil	12	792	Nil	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whole carcases condemned						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	17	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.6%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.2%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The coming into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations which took place on the 1st January, 1956 marks a big step forward, and although many of the original proposals have been withdrawn, the Regulations should do much to strengthen the powers of local authorities to enforce a satisfactory standard of hygiene in food premises. Statutory regulations by themselves, however, will not bring about the desired results. Such success can only be attained by securing the co-operation and support of all the food traders. With this end in view a copy of an abridged version of the Regulations was deposited at each food premises and endeavours made to impart to each trader the importance of the Regulations as a means of achieving good food hygiene practice.

Certain sections of the Regulations did not come into force until the first day of July, 1956. These included the Regulations relating to the provision of washing facilities, facilities for the washing of food and equipment, the provision of accommodation for clothing, the requirements relating to the temperature at which certain foods are to be kept, and the requirements relating to the handling and transport of meat.

The number of visits made to the one hundred and fifty-nine food premises in the district was six hundred and twenty-one, or 12 per cent of the total number of visits made to all premises during the year.

Every effort was made to make each food trader even more "food hygiene conscious" and although the achievement in this particular field was satisfactory, there is no room for complacency. A survey carried out towards the end of the year, showed that seventy-one premises were provided with suitable accommodation for outdoor clothing, fifty-four premises were provided with facilities for keeping certain foods at a temperature below 50°F. and twenty-seven premises were provided with additional sinks and/or wash-hand basins. There are still four food premises not provided with a constant supply of hot water.

Registration of Food Premises.
(Sec. 16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955.)

The number and type of food premises in the district which are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is shown as follows:-

Type of Premises	No. Regd.	Type of Premises	No. Regd.
General Dealers	21	Bakchouses	4
Meat Purveyors	16	Retail Bakers	4
Confectioners	11	Fruiterers	2
Grocers	7	Fishmongers	1
Fried Fish & Chips	5	"Off-licence"	1

Forty-seven premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, and twenty-six premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food, intended for sale. There are no premises in the district registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Section 2 (General protection for purchasers of Food and Drugs).

Section 8 (Sale etc., of food unfit for human consumption).

During the year I had occasion to report three cases concerning the alleged finding of extraneous matter in food intended for sale for human consumption.

In each of these three cases on the instruction of the Council, warning letters were sent to the persons concerned with the sale of the food.

Unsound Food.

(Voluntarily surrendered).

The following articles of food weighing 700 pounds were examined following their voluntary surrender and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

39 lbs. Cooked Ham	76 Tins Fruit
34 (only Fish Cakes)	36 Tins Vegetables
16 lbs. English Beef	30 Tins Meat
27 lbs. Sausage	22 Tins Spaghetti
18 sts. Fish	14 Tins Milk
13 lbs. Assorted Biscuits	14 Tins Tomatoes
13 lbs. Imported Beef	2 Tins Rice
7 pkts. Cheese	2 Tins Fish
5 lbs. Corned Beef	2 Tins Soup
4 lbs. Bacon	1 Tin Potted Salmon
3 lbs. Jellied Veal	1 Tin Macaroni
1 pkt. Gravy Salt	1 Tin Chicken

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Following the practice of previous years, condemned meat, when in large quantities, was forwarded to a local firm for processing into animal feeding meal, fertilisers, glues etc., prior to which it was suitably stained. All other types of food not suitable for processing were destroyed in the incinerator situated in the Council yard.

Adulteration of Food.

It gives me great pleasure on yet another occasion to express to Mr. C.L. Arlidge, Chief Weights and Measures Inspector of Northumberland County Council, my sincere appreciation for his kindness in supplying me with information relating to the work carried out by his sampling officers within the urban district of Gosforth.

I am informed by Mr. Arlidge that during the year one hundred and thirty samples were taken which consisted of sixty-nine samples of milk, fifty-nine samples other than milk and two samples under the Merchandise Marks Act.

It was not deemed necessary to institute legal proceedings in respect of any of the samples adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst. A caution was issued in respect of a sample of sausage found to contain preservative, the presence of which had not been declared to the purchaser.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The following tables show the number and nature of complaints received and dealt with during the year by your Public Health Inspectors, together with a summary of visits made and sanitary improvements effected.

TABLE 1.

(Complaints received and dealt with).

<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>No. of Complaints</u>
Vermin (Rats and Mice)	91
Dampness (Dwelling-house)	55
Disrepair (do.)	47
Vermin (Insects)	40
Defective dustbins	38
Defective drains	27
Foul smells	22
Atmospheric pollution	8
Miscellaneous	13
Total	<u>341</u>

TABLE 11.
(Summary of Visits)

Dwelling Houses	1429
Cinemas and Dance Halls	7
Ditches and Streams	90
Drainage Systems	327
Drain Test:-	
Smoke	32
Water	109
Factories (Mechanical)	118
(Non-Mechanical)	67
Outworkers	9
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	73
Disinfections	25
Revisits	329
National Assistance Act	24
Rodent Infestation:-	
Rats	518
Mice	143
Refuse Collection - Supervision	459
Schools re Sanitation	12
Shops Act	301
Tents, Vans and Sheds	6
Milk Samples	91
Food Premises	621
Slaughter Houses	137
Verminous Premises:-	
Inspected	41
Treated	43
Re-inspected	9
Miscellaneous	148
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	5168
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TABLE 111.

(Sanitary Improvements Effected)

Ceiling plaster repaired or renewed	10
Chimneys or chimney stacks repaired	9
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed	18
Eaves-gutters cleaned-out rep'd or ren'd	42
External walls pointed	20
Fallspouts repaired or renewed	10
Firegrates repaired, reset or renewed	9
Floors repaired, ventilated, etc.	26
Handrails renewed	2
Roofs repaired	44
Sashcords renewed	12
Sink draining boards renewed/repared	1
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	6
Skirting boards repaired or renewed	2
Stairs repaired	1
Storage cisterns repaired	1
Walls rendered internally	12
Wallplaster repaired or renewed	18
Water supplies repaired or renewed	8
Windows repaired; made to open	8
Yard paving repaired	7
Choked drains cleansed	16
Drains repaired	5
Inspection chambers repaired	2
Gullies renewed	1
Dustbins provided	62
W.C. basins renewed	9
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	12
W.C. structures repaired or renewed	6
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	379
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CONCLUSION.

In concluding my report I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Health Committee, and all other members of the Council for the kind manner in which my reports to the various committees have been received and dealt with, and for the help and support given to me during the year.

I would also like to express to Dr. Hopper, and to all other Chief Officials, my sincere thanks for their kindly advice and co-operation on the many and varied matters coming within the purview of the Health Department.

I cannot praise too highly the very commendable work carried out by Mr. Oxley and the clerical staff, and it affords me the greatest of pleasure to pay them yet another tribute to their accomplishments.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE STENGER,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

